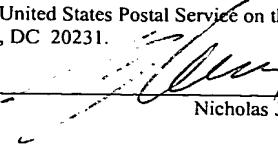


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date set forth below as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



Date of Signature and Deposit: March 25, 2003


Nicholas J. Seay

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Frederick R. Blattner
Valerie Burland
Debra J. Rose
George F. Mayhew
Nicole Perna
Robert D. Perry
Susan C. Straley
Jacqueline D. Fetherston
Luther E. Lindler
Gregory V. Plano

Date: March 25, 2003

Serial No.: 09/409,800

Group Art Unit: 1634

Filed: 09/30/1999

Examiner: Juliet Caroline Einsmann

Title: PLASMID DNA FROM YERSINIA PESTIS

File No.: 960296.95939

RESPONSE

Commissioner For Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2002 in the file of this application, the applicants responds as follows: